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## ***News Release***

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### ***Outer Banks History Center Workshops Help Save Family Treasures***

MANTEO – You can write your own autobiography, save old family photographs, and learn to conserve quilts or oil paintings through the popular “History in Your Hands” preservation workshop series offered by the Outer Banks History Center. Bring your notebooks and questions to sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and experts will answer “how to” questions about family heirlooms, memorabilia and history.

**On July 13**, North Carolina Museum of Art Associate Conservator Perry Hurt will present ***Caring for Paintings and Artwork***. Hurt will share practical tips for care, display, minor cleaning, storage, and maintenance of original paintings. Using a slide show of conservation projects done by the Museum of Art conservation lab, Hurt will illustrate the most common problems of painting preservation. See how professional conservators deal with artwork and receive pointers on how private owners can protect and maintain paintings. Examples of artwork will be on hand to see first hand examples of proper framing and hanging, dusting, and how to recognize problems that require the attention of professional conservators. Hurt will also review conservation work done by him on Frank Stick paintings from the Outer Banks History Center collections.

“History in Your Hands” workshops are free of charge thanks to a grant from the Outer Banks Community Foundation and support from the Outer Banks History Center Associates. All sessions are held at the Outer Banks History Center, across from the Manteo waterfront within Roanoke Island Festival Park. Reservations are recommended and made by contacting (252) 473-2655 or [obhc@ncdcr.gov](mailto:obhc@ncdcr.gov).

Other interesting and useful topics in the series are:

**July 27: *Genealogy 101***: Outer Banks History Center Assistant Curator Sarah Downing explores methods of researching and collecting family history from both traditional and computer resources, sources available for research at the History Center and ways to organize your findings.

**August 10: *How to Write Your Own Autobiography:*** Author, personal coach and clinical psychologist Kathleen Brehony, Ph.D., will provide tips and guidance about how to tell those stories from your own life that beg to be told. Learn how to organize your thoughts and use literary craft to produce compelling results.

**August 24: *Caring for Your Family Textiles:*** Professional textile conservator and restoration specialist Lynn Gorges of Battleground Antiques & Civil War Shop, New Bern gives practical tips to preserve your wedding gowns, old family quilts, baptismal gowns and other special family heirlooms.

**September 14: *Preserving Your Family Treasures:*** Outer Banks History Center Curator KaeLi Spiers provides a broad overview of the common do's and don'ts of storing and handling family memorabilia such as letters, diaries, photographs and heirlooms.

**September 28: *Scrapbooks for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:*** Organization Records Archivist Gwen Thomas Mays from the North Carolina State Archives will provide advice regarding care and handling of old/vintage scrapbooks as well as suggestions for creating scrapbooks today that will withstand the test of time.

**October 12: *Understanding 18th- and 19th-century Documents & Newspapers:*** Civil War and militaria expert Will Gorges of Battleground Antiques & Civil War Shop, New Bern introduces participants to methods of identifying inks and papers used in old documents and how the paper-making process has changed over the years.

**October 26: *From Tintypes to Today: Identifying and Caring For Your Family Photographs:*** Iconographic Archivist Kim Cumber from the North Carolina State Archives teaches participants how to identify the different types of historic photographs and how to preserve them for future generations.

For more information about the History Center, call (252) 473-2655, e-mail [obhc@ncdcr.gov](mailto:obhc@ncdcr.gov) or visit [www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov](http://www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov). The Outer Banks History Center is a regional archives and research library administered by the N. C. Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources. The Outer Banks History Center Associates, a 501(c) 3 organization, provides ongoing support to the center through volunteer and financial assistance.

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources is the state agency with the mission to enrich lives and communities, and the vision to harness the state's cultural resources to build North Carolina's social, cultural and economic future. Information is available 24/7 at [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).

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